



Making Tracks

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Free TreeKeepers Course Offered

Beginning in July, Forest ReLeaf of Missouri will present a TreeKeepers course at the Meramec Campus of St. Louis Community College. Sponsored in part by the Missouri Department of Conservation, the class will educate citizens about trees, their benefits and care, and provide practical, hands-on learning in five key areas: tree identification, tree biology, planting, pruning, and insects and diseases. The course is free, but participants are asked to provide 24 hours of volunteer service after graduation. These hours may be fulfilled through tree care projects in the participants' communities or through projects arranged by Forest ReLeaf, which is approved for Master Gardener service.

Classes will meet every Tuesday for six weeks from 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., beginning on Tuesday, July 19. There will also be Saturday field sessions from 9 a.m. – Noon on July 30 and August 20. The course is limited to 25 participants.

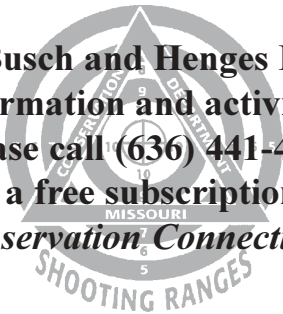
Please call the college at (314) 984-7777 to register or contact Forest ReLeaf at (314) 533-5323 for more information.

Forest ReLeaf of Missouri is a statewide not-for-profit organization founded in 1993 to promote urban and community reforestation through education and tree planting programs.



Making Tracks
Missouri Department of Conservation
2360 Hwy D
St. Charles, MO 63304
www.mdc.mo.gov

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information and activities,
please call (636) 441-4554
for a free subscription to
Conservation Connections.**



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Making Tracks

St. Louis Regional Calendar of Events

July 2005 Volume 05, Number 07



Quail Facts

By Steve Spezia, Private Land Services Regional Supervisor

Did You Know...

- Few quail live beyond 14 months
- More than 80% of the annual population fail to carry over to the next year
- Baby quail can fly when only three weeks old
- A newly hatched quail is the size of a bumblebee
- The bobwhite is found in every county in Missouri
- The average clutch is 15 small, white eggs
- The normal incubation for quail is 23 days
- The peak hatching is around June 15

The bobwhite quail (*Colinus virginianus*) has long been a favorite of landowners and hunting enthusiasts across Missouri. Besides being a desirable species for hunting, quail also play an important role within forest, grassland and agricultural ecosystems.

The average bobwhite population density on intensively managed areas is about one covey per 15 acres. The average covey is made up of about 10-12 birds. In the Midwest, the average carrying capacity of the habitat for quail rarely exceeds one bird per acre under the best habitat conditions.

Populations are directly related to land-use patterns, management practices and weather. Quail also serve as prey for many predators. Because of their role in the food chain, quail are an important indicator of ecosystem health. The species is representative of wildlife that require early-successional habitats.

Bobwhites are an edge species that require a mix of grasses, herbaceous cover, agricultural crops and brushy cover all closely arranged together. Recent research found that quail seldom travel more than 70 feet from woody cover during winter.

Basic Habitat Needs

1) Nesting Cover—Preferred nesting includes a mix of erect grasses, forbs and scattered shrubs within 50 feet of an edge or opening with bare ground, where the nesting bird can easily forage.

2) Brood Cover—Should be dominated by plants that have well-spaced, sturdy stems with little foliage near the ground, with overhead foliage dense enough to provide sufficient cover to give chicks and adults protection from predators.

3) Roosting Cover—Crop fields, grasslands and old fields. The birds' camouflage and motionless state while roosting eliminate the need for overhead cover.

4) Escape Cover—Implies dense cover, usually a thicket combining trees, blackberry, coral berry, other brush and vines.

5) Covey Headquarters—Small trees and shrubs (3-12 feet tall) or downed trees that are dense enough to form a canopy, but open beneath to provide movement; approximately 30 feet by 50 feet. Headquarters of different coveys are rarely shared. With a football field being approximately an acre in size, ideal habitat would provide a covey headquarters for every 10-15 acres.

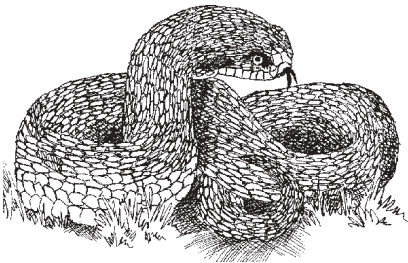
The diet of adult bobwhites consists of insects, seeds, fruits of annual weeds, legumes, grasses, shrubs, trees and cultivated crops. Water needs are usually met by seeds, succulent herbaceous plants, insects, dew and snow.

Private Land Conservationists can provide advice on a wide variety of land management objectives. Contact your local Conservation Department office for additional information or assistance.



2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304 Office hours are Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
For reservations call (636) 441-4554 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From Hwy 40 take Hwy 94 south to Hwy D; turn west on Hwy D for approximately 3 miles. The area entrance is on the north side of Hwy D. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis/buschca/

9 Snakes
Saturday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
(All Ages) Are snakes slimy? Where do snakes go in winter? What Missouri snakes are endangered? Come discover the answers to these questions and learn more about Missouri’s snakes. *Naturalists: Glenn & Trish Senter.* (Reservations begin June 24.)



12 Stream Study
Tuesday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
(Ages 7-12) Come find out how a stream stays clean and healthy. “Wet” your appetite for knowledge about streams as we learn all about water quality in one of our streams and study the aquatic invertebrates that help keep the stream clean. *Naturalist: Dot Niemeyer.* (Reservations begin June 22.)

13 Painting the Birds
Wednesday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
(Ages 8-16) So you have always wanted to learn how to draw animals but did not have anyone to teach you. Your problem is solved! Join us to discover how to sketch and paint a bird. Increase your observation ability by learning to paint a bird. Learn about the bird’s habitat while you paint in watercolors. This program will help you to capture your subjects and their habitats realistically. *Naturalist: Carol Jean Price.* (Reservations begin June 30.)

16 Summer Wildflowers
Saturday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
(Ages 16 & up) Join us as we explore summer wildflowers through a video. Then take a walk through the wildflower garden to see what is blooming and put your new knowledge to the test. *Naturalist: Gladys Kullman.* (Reservations begin July 5.)



30 Herons & Egrets at Marais Temps Clair Conservation Area
Saturday 7:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
(Adults) Join us for a 2 ½-mile hike to view the herons and egrets feeding in the Marais Temps Clair Conservation Area marsh. The young will have just left the nests so we may see both young and adults feeding together. See some of the showiest members of all wading birds. Learn to identify these birds from a distance through spotting scopes provided by MDC. *Naturalist: Marv Staloch.* (Reservations begin July 18.)

Gear Up For the Outdoor Adventures Expo

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Anglers, hunters and outdoor enthusiasts of all ages! Talk to experts on topics from hiking to hunting at the Missouri Department of Conservation’s Outdoor Adventures Expo, July 30 at the August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center in St. Charles. The free event will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. No reservations are required.

Bring the family! Meet outfitters and outdoor product manufacturers in a relaxed setting to check out the newest gear and watch product demonstrations. Get expert advice on your favorite outdoor activities from members of conservation organizations, guides and outfitters, dog trainers and retailers. Learn membership requirements and benefits from representatives of local caving, fishing and hunting clubs. Kids – try your hand at archery or air rifles free of charge. Pick up free literature and get the answers to your questions about canoeing, backpacking, horsemanship, the Katy Trail, wildlife habitat, birding and much more!

For more information or directions, call (636) 441-4554.



2751 Glencoe Road, Wildwood, MO 63038 Office hours are Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

For reservations call (636) 458-2236 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-44 take Hwy 109 north 4 miles to Woods Avenue; left on Woods Avenue, and then immediately right on Glencoe Road. From Manchester Road take Hwy 109 south 2 miles to Woods Avenue; right on Woods Avenue, and then immediately right on Glencoe Road. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis/

6 Backpacking/Hiking

Wednesday 10 a.m. – Noon
(Ages 7-10) Part of enjoying the outdoors is knowing how to prepare for your favorite activities! Join us as we learn the basics of preparing to backpack and hike in Missouri’s forests. We’ll apply what we have learned while hiking Rockwoods Reservation’s own Rock Quarry Trail! Wear bug spray and sturdy shoes. *Naturalist: Anna-Lisa Tucker.* (Reservations begin June 22.)



8 Cooking on a Stick

Friday 10 a.m. – Noon
(Ages 7-10) Learn to cook delicious meals over a campfire! We will taste our delicacies after learning how to prepare and cook them. All food and equipment will be provided. *Naturalist: Anna-Lisa Tucker.* (Reservations begin June 30.)

The Night Time Is The Right Time:
Nature Nights

As the hot, summer sun creeps towards the horizon, shadows grow long and the cicadas begin their nightly song. Lightning bugs dance across the tops of fragrant native flowers and the real fun is about to begin at Rockwoods Reservation. Welcome to *Nature Nights*, a special series of fun-filled, family evening frolics designed to take advantage of longer summer days and cooler summer nights. Join us every Thursday throughout July as Rockwoods comes alive with slimy, slithering, flying, croaking and chirping creatures sure to delight kids of all ages.

7 Nature’s Light Show:
Fireflies

Thursday 7:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.
(Families) At dusk nature presents one of its most beautiful light shows. Learn about this fascinating beetle: the firefly. We will build a bug box to capture and release some of these twinkling creatures. *Naturalist: Mary Demmitt.* (Reservations begin June 22.)

14 Awesome Aquifer

Thursday 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
(Families) Where does the rain go? What happens to it underneath our feet? Hike to a hidden sinkhole and then descend into our cave to discover the secrets of the aquifer. We’ll outfit ourselves with real spelunking gear and explore the cave, so be prepared to get muddy! Each child must be accompanied by one adult. *Naturalist: Nick Davis.* (Reservations begin June 30.)

21 Wetland Wonders

Thursday 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
(Families) Frogs, lily pads and dragonflies! The ponds and streams at Rockwoods are packed with life—some creatures so small we’ll need a microscope to see them. We’ll investigate our own ponds and streams to discover how these creatures live among their water-loving plant and animal friends. *Naturalist: Nick Davis.* (Reservations begin July 7.)

28 Soil:
It’s Alive!

Thursday 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
(Families) Soil—it’s alive! Make friends with worms as we take a close-up look at soil—how it came to be, what lives in it and why it is so valuable. We’ll make our own worm composting bins to take home. Be ready to be soiled! *Naturalist: Nick Davis.* (Reservations begin July 14.)

801 Strodtman Rd., St. Louis, MO 63138 Office hours are Wednesday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Saturday – Sunday from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

For reservations call (314) 877-6014 Wednesday through Sunday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-270 north take the Riverview Drive exit (last Missouri exit); go north approximately 2.8 miles. Riverview Drive becomes Columbia Bottom Road at its intersection with Larimore Road. The entrance is on the right-hand side. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/areas/bottom/

6 Retiree River Ramble

Wednesday 8 a.m. – 11 a.m.
(Ages 60 & up) This month we will explore the fish, forest and wildlife at Fort Bellefontaine. Bring binoculars and field guides if you have them, as we will be looking for wildflowers and birds. *Volunteer Naturalist: David Petree.* (Reservations begin June 22.)

8 Nature Story Time

Friday 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.
(Ages 2-6) Summer is here and it’s hot! What better time to come inside and enjoy a good story? We will discover the changes that take place in nature as spring turns to summer. Find out what the animals do to keep cool during the hot summer months. *Volunteer Naturalist: Lena Dowers.* (Reservations begin June 24.)

13 Babes in the Woods:
Trees

Wednesday 9 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.
(Ages birth-3) It’s never too early to begin exploring nature! This month we will check out the leaves, trees and animals that live in them. Join us for a stroller walk and together we will use our senses to discover our natural environment. Older siblings are also welcome. *Volunteer Naturalist: Lisa Reid.* (Reservations begin June 29.)

16 Where Did the Seeds Go?

Saturday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
(Ages 3-6) Do you know what happens to seeds after they are planted? Join us as we read a story and discover the changes that take place as a seed becomes a plant. We will even take a hike to collect some seeds! *Volunteer Naturalist: Andra Stanley.* (Reservations begin July 1.)

20 Snakes Alive

Wednesday 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.
(Ages 7-12) Have you ever wondered what that was that slithered off into the brush? Could it have been a snake? Was it a harmless garter snake or a venomous copperhead? Want to find out how to tell them apart? Join us as we learn about Missouri’s cold-blooded residents. *Trail Ranger: Terry Cross.* (Reservations begin July 6.)

22 Night Hike

Friday 8:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
(Families) Have you ever used your night vision out in the forest? During our hike we will travel without flashlights and explore the wildlife that is active at night. Together we will investigate what noises, behaviors and adaptations our nocturnal friends are using. *Volunteer Naturalist: Lisa Reid.* (Reservations begin July 8.)

23 Wildflower Walk

Saturday 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
(All Ages) Join us as we explore the unique plant life found on the prairie at Columbia Bottom. Discover the variety of wildflowers and grasses that grow there and what makes a prairie unique. *Volunteer Naturalist: Barbra Stephenson.* (Reservations begin July 8.)

Birding Week

(Ages 7-12) Are you a bird brain? If so, you’ll enjoy this week of birding adventures! Learn how to identify a variety of birds, build a bird feeder and learn about bird migration. *Naturalist: Rhonda Anderson.* (Reservations begin July 13.)

26 Bird Identification

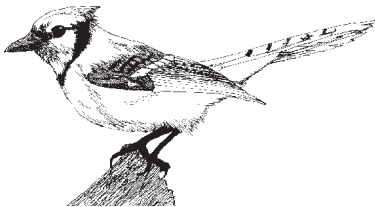
Tuesday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

27 Bring Birds to Your Backyard

Wednesday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

28 Bird Migration

Thursday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.



11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122 Nature Center hours are daily from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
For reservations call (314) 301-1500 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-44 east in Kirkwood, take Watson Road, exit and turn north on Geyer Road. Follow Geyer Road 200 yards to Cragwold Road. Go 1 mile west on Cragwold Road. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/powder/

Summer Sensations

Are you ready for a sensational summer? If so, we have the program series for you! Each week has a different theme: from pond studies to “ology” classes to scavenger hunts with a lens. Please see individual descriptions for reservation start dates. **Parents are strongly encouraged to accompany their children.** Attend all sessions during any series and receive a certificate!



12, 13 & 14

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday

(Ages 6-8 with an adult) “Mom, look what I found!” Do you turn slowly and cringe at the thought of what you’re about to see? Are you afraid your child may become an entomologist or herpetologist? Then this is the series you want for your young one(s). After a short classroom period each day, we’ll look for amphibians, reptiles, insects and birds (just in case you have an ornithologist on your hands). We will go off the trail from time to time, so please wear long, loose cotton pants, sturdy shoes and bug spray. *Staff Naturalist: Colleen Scott.* (Reservations begin June 28.)

Animal Crackers

10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

19 & 21

Tuesday & Thursday

(Ages 8 & up) Join a fun Photo Scavenger Hunt! Broken Ridge Trail and the Nature Center are the “hunting grounds.” There is no time limit in capturing your photo on the 19th, so hunt all morning or afternoon if you choose. Trailing and camera skills will be a challenge for all. On Thursday the 21st, to qualify for awards, photo captures will be evaluated for correctness. All participants will have their photos displayed in the Powder Valley Scavenger Hunt Photo Exhibit. Please provide your own camera and media (film, digital or Polaroid). *Staff Naturalist: David Bradford.* (Reservations begin July 1.)

Family Photo Scavenger Hunt

9:30 a.m. – Noon

25, 26 & 27

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday

What’s In This Pond?

10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. &
12:30 p.m. – 2 p.m.

(Ages 9-12) Are all ponds the same? Find out as we explore the ponds of three different locations. We will begin on Monday at Henges Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center, where we will conduct a pond study. On Tuesday, we will meet at Claire Gempp Davidson Natural Conservation Area to study what lives in the Gempp pond. We will finish on Wednesday at Powder Valley. We will then compare what we found in each pond. Come prepared to get muddy and have fun while learning about pond life. *Staff Naturalist: Catherine McGrane.* (Reservations begin July 11.)

Monday, July 25, meet at Jay Henges Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center on Beaumont/Antire Road and Hwy 44 (exit 269 from I-44).
Tuesday, July 26, meet at Gempp Area on Sappington.
Wednesday, July 27, at Powder Valley on Cragwold Road.



27

Wednesday

Can Historical Ecosystems Survive In An Expanding Cultural Landscape?

7:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Botanist and author Paul Nelson will be on hand to share his experience and insight on land management. Upon completing a master’s degree in botany, Paul worked for the Missouri Department of Natural Resources state park system for 25 years, directing the Operations and Resource Management Program for the last five. In his years of experience, Paul established a nationally recognized natural resource management program, nominated many state natural areas and recently authored the revision of the *Terrestrial Natural Communities of Missouri*, published by the Missouri Natural Areas Committee. He has served on the Committee for 25 years. Paul is also the Ecology and Land Management Planner for the Mark Twain National Forest, where he is helping to integrate ecosystem management into the new Forest Plan. *Botanist and author, Paul Nelson.* (No reservations necessary.)

Nature in the Arts

Hallway Exhibit

Kim William Gordon Large-Format and 3D Photographer

Kim William Gordon specializes in large-format (4”x5” and 8”x10” negatives) black and white photography, 3D imagery and historical imagery. Kim, originally from southern Illinois, has developed his style around the principle of “natural fractals,” capturing the patterns inherent in nature.

In July, we will display his landscape work, focused on the wide variety of Missouri outdoors landscapes, as well as a special exhibit of stereoscopic photography of Missouri’s natural environment.

Kim will provide a demonstration of large-format techniques and equipment on August 27 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., briefly interrupted by a 3D workshop from 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Demonstration

George Wright Sculptures in Wood Saturday, July 30

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.



George Wright specializes in fish carving. He began woodcarving at the age of 63 following a long career in the insurance business and six years as a taxidermist. George’s lifelong love of the outdoors, particularly stream and lake environs, has evolved into a passion for fish carving.

Each of George’s works is individually hand carved, painted and completed as much as possible from wood, including the habitats. Most of his work includes fish of the Missouri Ozarks and draws from a lifetime of fishing.

George’s work will be exhibited in our display case during July.

Powder Valley Volunteer Milestones

Kathy Anderson.....200 hours	Dave Mostajo.....200 hours	Ed Wilte.....2600 hours
Alma Dulz.....3500 hours	Rita Mueller.....1200 hours	Lawrence Burtelow.....400 hours
Etta May Eagle.....2600 hours	Ron Pohle.....1700 hours	Keith Spoeneman.....200 hours